

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 278906

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 278906

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E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: OEXC, PFOR, SY, US

SUBJECT:INVITATIONS TO SYRIAN MINISTERS TO VISIT U.S.

REF: DAMASCUS 4422

1. HAVE DISCUSSED CONTENTS REFTEL WITH AMBASSADOR MURPHY,

WHO WILL RETURN BRIEFED ON DEPARTMENT'S CAPABILITIES TO
RESPOND.

2. DEPARTMENT PREPARED TO RECEIVE NOMINATIONS AGRICULTURE
MINISTER ABU OMAR AND EUPHRATEY MINISTER KAHHALA AS INTER-
NATIONAL VISITOR GRANTEES. THIS APPEARS BEST, PERHAPS ONLY
WAY FUND PROPOSED VISITS. HOWEVER, DEPARTMENT PUZZLED BY
INTIMATION REFTEL PARA 3 REGARDING ANY EXISTING COMMITMENT
OF POST'S IV FUNDS. CANNOT FIND ANY RECORD HERE OF SUCH
COMMITMENT.

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PAGE 02 STATE 278906

3. DEPARTMENT AND AMBASSADOR AGREE THAT IF IV FUNDS USED

FOR THESE VISITS, CAN EXPECT ALLOCATION TO SUFFICE FOR VISIT OF TWO MINISTERS AND ONE PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE EACH. TRAVEL/MAINTENANCE OF MINISTER'S SPOUYE WILL HAVE TO BE AT MINISTER'S OWN EXPENSE. DEPARTMENT PREPARED PROVIDE FRENCH OR ENGLISH SPEAKING FEMALE ESCORT IF MINISTER'S WIFE ACCOMPANIES AND IF POST FEELS APPROPRIATE.

4. WHILE IV PROGRAM NOT REPEAT NOT DESIGNED AS MEANS OF HOSTING VIP GUESTS, DEPARTMENT WILL DO ALL IT CAN TO ASSURE COMFORT OF EACH VISITOR. ALTHOUGH THIS WILL NOT INCLUDE LIMOUSINE SERVICE OR POSH HOTEL SUITES, WILL ASSIGN ESCORT OFFICER WHO WILL BE ABLE TO CONVEY GUEST IN RENTAL AUTOMOBILE. DEPARTMENT WILL ALSO PROVIDE FIRST CLASS TRAVEL FOR HIGH RANKING GUEST WHERE JUSTIFIED. KISSINGER

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